

SENATE BILL 2735

By Ketron

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 57-3-207, relative to the grape and wine law.

WHEREAS, Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 57-3-207(f)(3), prohibits a Tennessee winery from selling at retail on its premises more than twenty thousand gallons (20,000 gals.) or twenty percent (20%) of the wine such winery produces annually, whichever amount is greater; and

WHEREAS, the deletion of such restriction from Tennessee law would facilitate the growth of Tennessee's viticulture industry and make it a major force in the commercial life of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, viticulture is yet another form of agriculture, and thus the repeal of such restriction would increase agricultural production in Tennessee, as well as the number of available agricultural jobs; and

WHEREAS, Tennesseans and tourists alike enjoy visiting wineries and discovering for themselves the many flavorful pleasures of locally grown and produced wines, and many of them are equally fascinated by the agricultural processes involved in making wine; thus the removal of such restriction could result in Tennessee wineries moving to the forefront of Tennessee's nascent agri-tourism industry; and

WHEREAS, the statutory restriction on the volume of wine that a winery may annually sell at retail on its premises should be repealed to promote commerce, tourism, agriculture, and viticulture in Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 57-3-207, is amended by deleting subsections (f)(3), (4) and (5) in their entirety and is further amended by deleting subsection (k) in its entirety.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.